DEPARTMENT OF BENEFIT PAYMENTS

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814

December 3, 1974



ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 74-239

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Special Allowance to Blind Recipients of SSP with Guide Dogs

REFERENCE:

This is to provide counties with general information and necessary instructions on the recently established provision for a special allowance to blind SSP recipients who have guide dogs. Regulations on this provision will be adopted in the near future.

Section 12553 has been added to the W&I Code through the passage of AB 3445 (Chappie) to provide for a monthly special need allowance of \$18 for dog food to all blind SSP (including EVH) recipients who have guide dogs. The bill was an emergency measure which became effective September 23, 1974.

The bill provides that the state is responsible for administering this provision. Within the Department of Benefit Payments, the Adult Program Management Branch will be responsible for the determination of eligibility and authorization of payment for the special allowance.

Because the law requires the state to send applications to all blind SSP and EVH recipients, it will be necessary for county welfare departments to identify blind EVH recipients for the Department of Benefit Payments. Forms and instructions for this procedure will follow this letter shortly.

The law also provides that county welfare departments will assist recipients in completing the application forms upon their request.

The Department of Benefit Payments mailed out initial application forms (SC-1 attached) to all blind recipients of SSP identified through the SDX files for October or November 1974 during the last week of November. Applications will be sent to current blind EVH recipients as they are identified by the county welfare departments.

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After these two initial mailings, applications will be sent on an ongoing basis to all new blind SSP and EVH recipients as they are reported by either SSA or county welfare departments. A supply of applications will also be provided to county welfare departments to be available for recipients who request them.

Recipients are to return applications directly to the Department of Benefit Payments. Initial payments are expected to be issued as early as possible in January.

Questions regarding this letter should be directed to the Adult Program Management Branch, 744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814, telephone (916) 445-0813.

Sincerely,

DENNIS O. FLATT Deputy Director

cc: CWDA

Attachment